



**BRIGHT FROM THE START**  
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning  
10 Park Place, Suite 200, Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 656-5957

**Sonny Perdue**  
GOVERNOR

**Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D.**  
COMMISSIONER

**Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Rulemaking**  
**Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning**

**Child Care Services, Rule Chapter 591-1-1**  
**Proposed Amendments to Rule 591-1-1.17**

**Child Care Services, Rule Chapter 290-2-1**  
**Proposed Amendments to Rule 290-2-1.10 and Rule 290-2-1.11**

**Child Care Services, Rule Chapter 290-2-3**  
**Proposed Amendments to Rule 290-2-3.11**

Notice Date: March 19, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (Bright from the Start) is proposing to amend Rule Chapter 591-1-1, the Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, Rule Chapter 290-2-1, the Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes, and Rule Chapter 290-2-3, the Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes, as follows.

**I. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 591-1-1, Rules for Child Care Learning Centers:**

Bright from the Start is proposing to amend Rule 591-1-1.17 in its *Rules for Child Care Learning Centers*. Changes to this rule include the following.

**Rule 591-1-1.17 (Hygiene)** Hand washing rules for children and staff are enhanced; removed requirement to rinse soiled clothing.

**II. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 290-2-1, Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes:**

Bright from the Start is also proposing to amend Rules 290-2-1.10 and 290-2-1.11 in its *Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes*. Changes to these rules include the following.

**Rule 290-2-1-.10 (Record Keeping and Reporting)** Added requirement for parent, guardian, or authorized person to sign children in and out daily; provider must maintain records. The word "guardian" is added where the rule references "parent". Records for children would require addresses, relationship to parent or guardian and those persons who are listed as emergency contacts. Also, a reference is made to Group Day Care Home Rule 290-2-1-.11(e)(i) through (iii) for medication to be kept in the original labeled container, along with the other requirements of that rule.

**Rule 290-2-1-.11 (Operations, Health, Safety and Activities)** The word "guardian" is added where the rule references "parent". Hand washing rules for children and staff are enhanced; removed requirement to rinse soiled clothing. Added no rough play or picking up children in a way that could injure the child. Revised cleaning and storage of potty chairs.

### **III. Proposed Amendments to Chapter 290-2-3, Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes:**

Additionally, Bright from the Start is proposing to amend Rule 290-2-3-.11 in its *Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes*. Changes to this rule include the following.

**Rule 290-2-3-.11 (Health, Safety and Discipline)** The word "guardian" is added where the rule references "parent". Hand washing rules for children and staff are enhanced. A provision for washcloth hand washing for infants and special needs children is included.

With the exception of the proposed enhanced hand washing requirements for children and staff, the other proposed rule amendments outlined herein merely align with previous amendments to Rule Chapters 591-1-1, 290-2-1 and 290-2-3 adopted by Bright from the Start.

### **IV. Public Comment on Proposed Amendments to Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes and Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes:**

The proposed amendments to the Rules for Child Care Learning Centers, the Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes, and the Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes as noted above have been posted to Bright from the Start's website at <http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/ProposedRevisions.aspx>.

Since the proposed amendments are being considered for adoption on a permanent basis, Bright from the Start invites interested parties to comment on them. Interested parties may submit written comments to my attention by mail at the address on this letterhead, by e-mail to [CCSRulesRevisions@dec.al.ga.gov](mailto:CCSRulesRevisions@dec.al.ga.gov) or by FAX at 404-651-7184. **To be considered, Bright from the Start must receive written comments on or before April 20, 2010.**

Interested parties who prefer to make verbal comments on the proposed rule changes may do so at a public hearing before a Hearing Officer. The public hearing will be held from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Clayton State University, Harry S. Downs Center for Continuing Education, 2000 Clayton State Boulevard, Morrow, GA 30260 on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2010.**

All interested parties are invited to attend regardless of whether they choose to make verbal comments regarding the rule amendments. **Comments made in writing will be given the same consideration as those that are made verbally.**

All comments (written and verbal) will be summarized in a written report for the Commissioner of Bright from the Start. The decision to adopt or reject the proposed rule amendments to Rule Chapter 591-1-1, Rule Chapter 290-2-1 and Rule Chapter 290-2-3 will be made by the Commissioner after receipt and review of the report summarizing the public comments. After the decision to adopt or reject the proposed amendments to Rule Chapter 591-1-1, Rule Chapter 290-2-1 and Rule Chapter 290-2-3 is made by the Commissioner, the order adopting or rejecting proposed rule amendments will be posted on the department's website at [www.decal.ga.gov](http://www.decal.ga.gov).

This notice of proposed rulemaking is being issued pursuant to O.C.G.A §§ 20-1A-1 et seq. and § 50-13-4. If you have any questions about the notice or the proposed amendments to the *Rules for Child Care Learning Centers*, the *Rules and Regulations for Group Day Care Homes* or the *Rules and Regulations for Family Day Care Homes*, contact Kay Hellwig, Director, Child Care Services, at (404) 657-5562.

If, due to a disability, you need this notice in an alternate format or if you plan to make verbal comments and will require special accommodations, call Kay Hellwig at the number referenced above. Please do this as soon as possible but no later than ten (10) days before the above referenced public hearing.

We appreciate our partnership with you in meeting the early care and education needs of Georgia's children and families, and we value your expertise and experience as we fine-tune the rules and regulations that ensure our children remain healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly A. Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Holly A. Robinson  
Commissioner

Attachments